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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 4 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the statement by the President of the Russian Federation on security guarantees for the Baltic countries and confidence-building measures in relations between them and the Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 40, 72 (b) and 81.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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ANNEX

Statement by the President of the Russian Federation on security guarantees for the Baltic countries and confidence-building measures in relations between them and the Russian Federation

Continuing our firm policy of strengthening good-neighbourliness and developing all around mutually advantageous cooperation with the Baltic States, we propose to structure our relations on a solid basis of mutual security and confidence.

The Russian Federation has a vital interest in the security and stability of its Baltic neighbours. We should like our common border not to separate us, but to bring us closer together. The Baltic countries have large Russian-speaking populations, and our natural desire is to enable these people to lead peaceful, tranquil lives. Like our Baltic partners, we need the most fully developed ties in the economic, trade, transport, energy and other fields.

We have already stated that we guarantee the security of the Baltic countries. In furtherance of this initiative we propose that such guarantees should be given in the form of a unilateral undertaking by the Russian Federation, possibly confirmed in international law through the conclusion of an agreement on good-neighbourliness and mutual security guarantees between the Russian Federation and the individual Baltic countries or between the Russian Federation and all three Baltic countries.

We are prepared for the security guarantees to the Baltic countries to become multilateral through the accession to them, for example, of the United States of America, Germany, France and certain other western countries. Nor do we exclude the idea of establishing a regional zone of stability and security which includes the Nordic countries.

The relevant inter-State agreement, reinforced by a set of regional confidence-building measures in the economic, humanitarian and environmental fields, could become a kind of regional security and stability pact. In the very near future the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, on my instructions, will be submitting to our partners more detailed proposals in this respect.